8BIT MART

ISSUE 1 September 1994

"Harrowden", 39, High Street, Sutton-in-the-Isle, ELY, Cambridgeshire CB6 2RA

Editor: Brian Watson Tel: 0353 777006

THE EDITOR'S PROLOGUE

Well, we made it! Welcome to the first issue of 8BIT MART. I hope you got it on time; a lot of late coverage in other publications led to many last-minute applications for sample issues and submissions and this, in turn, meant I didn't see too much of the August bank holiday in an effort to get everyone mailed on time. I also hope you find something of interest in the magazine. You will see there is no contents list as I would like to encourage you to look around at what other suppliers and users are up to.

CAN'T GIVE IT AWAY?

I have been surprised how very few of the subscribers have chosen to take up the "free small advertisement" option for this first issue, so there is more editorial in this issue than I had anticipated. My first thoughts were that 8BIT MART should be primarily an advertising magazine, but it appears the readership have other ideas!

As the articles are from several different contributors, it shouldn't just read like a big ego-ride by me. I actually had several requests for more chat so for now at least you've got it! One thing I have drawn the line at is including three computer-related, short stories. One (I'm not saying which) was very good, and could have been developed further, but I feel this is not the place for fiction. Am I wrong?

Brian Watson Sep '94

AMSTRAD CPC - FOR SALE

BUMPER BUNDLE of CPC Software for sale, mainly games, some utilities. 146 boxed tapes with instructions, 40 unboxed tapes with no instructions, 28 boxed discs with instructions. For sale as one lot at only £100. (List is available for further information). Steve Lee, 48, Field Road, Ramsey, HUNTINGDON, Cambs PE17 1JP. Telephone: 0487 814043.

AMSTRAD CPC464 (with a GT65 monitor), a joystick, and manuals. Only £45. Roy Firth, 7, Burned Grove, Shelf, HALIFAX HX3 7PU

AMSTRAD CPC464 AND COLOUR MONITOR £30; CPC ROM chip £15; Dart Electronics light pen £15; Protext CP/M Plus; Unformatted 3" discs £1.30 each. Many utilities, games, books, and magzines. For details SSAE to Julian Cater, 29, St Leonards Road, LONDON SW14 7LY or Tel: 081 876 5245

LOADS OF CPC GOODIES

Tape, Disc, Rom, Magazines, Books, Systems too. Extras and spare parts available. To sell or any (reasonable) swap, or I will buy.

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SSAE to: Angela Cook, *Brympton Cottage*, Brunswick Road, WORTHING, Sussex BN11 3NQ.

The UNITED AMSTRAD USER GROUP

The UAUG was founded in 1986 by a group of dedicated Amstrad CPC-owning enthusiasts who were dissatisfied with what they felt then were biased and incomplete reviews, expensive hardware and software, and the non-availability of free Public Domain software.

The group is now well established with a very friendly and mutually-supportive membership which extends throughout the world. The reason they feel they have been so successful is that not only do they offer many of the same services as other computer owner clubs but they do so for a considerably lower membership fee; just £8 for their UK members, £11 for Europe, and £15.25 for the rest of the world.

The membership fee also includes a year's subscription to the group's bi-monthly magazine 'CPC USER', and access to about 6 megabytes of free PD software of all sorts, ranging from clever but quite useless demos of the various CPC machines' capabilities to very sophisticated business programs, passing through games, art programs, data bases, word processors, and programming languages on the way. These are mainly on disc but some are on tape as well. If you send a disc or tape the only cost to members is the return postage. There is also a book library which operates on the same basis and an extensive helpline network in the membership.

Membership also confers some price discount advantage through selected suppliers of CPC software and other computer equipment.

If, after reading this, you would now like to receive further details of the United Amstrad User Group, just send a SAE to me: Tony Baker, UAUG, 26, Uplands Crescent, FAREHAM, Hants PO16 7SY. If you would also like to receive a sample copy of the magazine 'CPC USER', also include a cheque or postal order for £1.50 with your SAE.

Tony Baker - Chairman UAUG

AMSTRAD CPC - FOR SALE (contd)

SECOND-HAND tape games for Amstrad CPC's. Also non-PD listings on disc for £3.00. Angela Allum, 22, Point Royal, BRACKNELL, Berks. RG12 7HH

LOADS OF AMSTRAD CPC GEAR for sale at reasonable prices. Serious, Games, Discs, Tapes, Magazines. SSAE for details to M.Ruegg, 8, The Horse Park, Carrickfergus, Co. Antrim, BT38 7ED. Also 80,000 word, Prospell-compatible, Dictionary. Send two blank discs, £1 copying charge and a stamped, self-addressed, envelope. Dictionary spans three sides!

IMPACT - The Ultimate CPC Disczine with Graphics, Sound and a side full of PD! Issues one to four available. For your copy, send a disc and a SSAE to: IMPACT, 53, High Lane, Burslem, STOKE ON TRENT, Staffs ST6 7DF. It's free and PD! Also - contacts wanted to swap CPC PD software (at the same address).

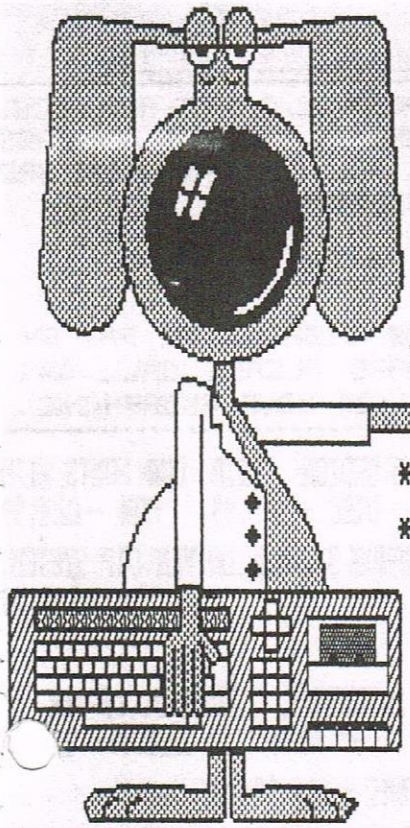
* * * *

FREE PLUG TIME

On the subject of specialist local dealers, I would be very pleased to hear of any who you feel deserve wider fame through 8BIT MART. I am happy to start the ball rolling with a plug for my favourite local 8-bit outlet called The Grotto, who are at 11a, Castle Meadow, NORWICH, Norfolk (for now).

The shop has stacks (real heaps) of 8-bit kit of all formats, and boxes of software-house clearance items and 2nd-hand stuff; programs, books, accessories, at very fair prices. I recently bought some 3" discs with games on so cheaply it beat the price of new blanks. Some of the games by Spanish programmers were good too, having originally been bundled with an English computer sold in Spain. At £1 each that must be a bargain.

Their 'parent' shop is One Step Beyond, 9-11, Bedford Street, Norwich, and the Grotto's stock may be moved there in September, I hear.



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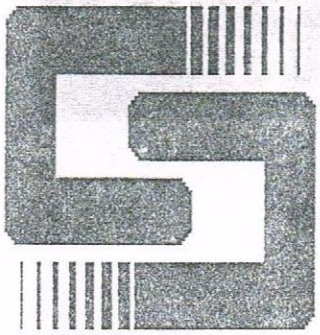

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SOFTSELL

I have received the September edition of the newsletter sent out to customers of Softsell. They specialises in Spectrum supplies and the letter includes a very comprehensive list of suppliers and supporters of all things Spectrum. Of course, if these companies support one eight-bit machine they may support others, and there are many names on the list who I know do. For example, JV Electronics in SHREWSBURY, who will repair Spectrum and Amstrad computers, as well as keeping a good stock of tape and disc games. If you are in their area and need a repair they could be worth a call. Their number is 0743 352009.

There are also news items, wants and needs advertisements, and the style is very friendly and conversational. This is a very good example of a supplier who 'goes the extra mile' to serve their customers. The Softsell shop is in the Shopping Mall in TROWBRIDGE. This is normally open Saturday 9-5 and weekdays from 4-5pm (apart from school holidays) or you may prefer to get in touch with the proprietor, Joyce Cook, by post initially at 32, Dursley Road, TROWBRIDGE, Wilts BA14 0NP. If you would like a copy of their newsletter and details of what else they can offer, send them a self-addressed envelope big enough to take A4 sheets and keep an eye on the letterbox!

Adventure games for computers date back to the early days of simple text appearing on screens. There are still text-only adventures, but some also come with graphics to a greater or lesser extent.

I prefer these, because the thing that links *all* well-written adventures is that you should feel involved, and *care about* the progress of the character, or characters you play in the game. And don't get the idea that all Adventures are 'Lord of the Rings' or 'Sword and Sorcery' epics as many are not.

The usual way of things is that, upon starting the game, you discover there is a quest of some sort for you to pursue, and you type in actions and questions to get on with it. To keep track of what's going on and where you are, you may need to draw a map and perhaps keep notes as you go.

To avoid some frustration, it is a good idea to save your game position from time to time. A well-designed game will allow this. In effect, this ensures that if your character finds him or herself in an undesirable (or even terminal!) position, you can resume play without going right back to the beginning.

Most adventures are available either as Public Domain programs or at low cost. WoW Software, who you will find have advertised elsewhere in this issue, carry a huge range for CPCs (tape and/or disc) and some PCW computers (3" disc only, but you could ring them to check). Other suppliers can provide for other computers.

If you've never tried this sort of thing and fancy that your intellect runs a little ahead of that darned hedgehog, give adventuring a try. It need not cost a lot and you may find a whole new area of interest.

Next month I will suggest some games which are suitable for beginners of various ages.

Gerry Prescott.

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ARE YOU A FRUSTRATED AMSTRAD CPC USER seeking help and support? Then why not join the United Amstrad User Group for a bi-monthly magazine, free PD material, concessions and support, all for £8 per annum. Send SAE to Gordon Wooliscroft, 2, Wrenbeck Drive, Otley, West Yorkshire LS21 2BR for details.

TUCK PD - Cheap, High Quality, Public Domain software for the AMSTRAD CPC. For lists send a stamped addressed envelope to: M. Tuck, 7, Carr Field, Eland Haugh, Ponteland, Northumberland NE20 9XR. 100% reply guaranteed. Fast response and one of the cheapest around.

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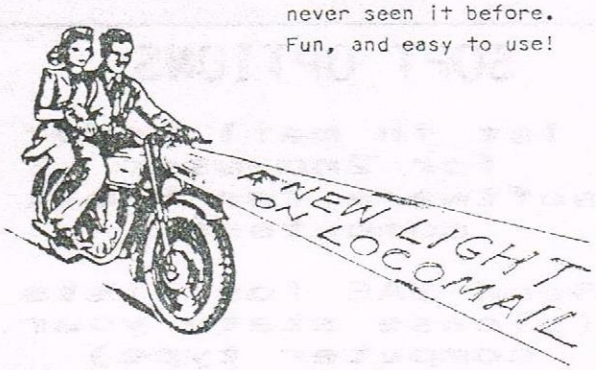

INSTANT RECALL is a set of exceptional utilities for Amstrad PCW machines running LocoScript and LocoMail. It features a sophisticated Calculator, with a memory store/recall facility; Metric Converters; full-year Calendars, showing every UK bank holiday right through to the year 2000, plus a useful Accounts Package that keeps track of your bank balance. And all to a standard of screen presentation which you wouldn't normally associate with LocoMail.

The routines work with LocoScript/LocoMail versions 1, 2 & 3 - just state 3" or 3½" disc size and send a cheque for £9.50 to:-

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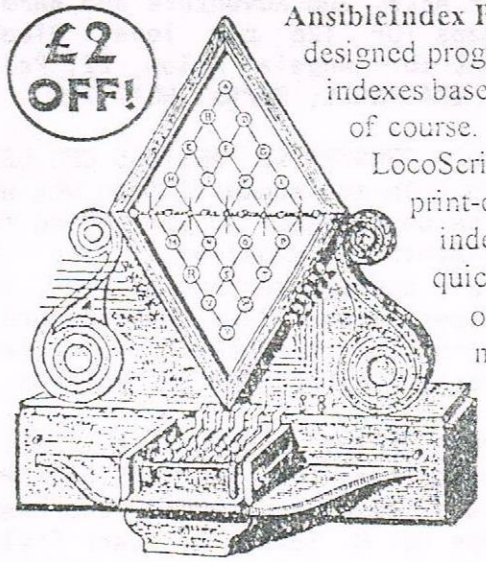

AnsibleIndex Plus runs on all Amstrad PCW computers. It's a purpose-designed program for writers who want a job done: it produces book indexes based on LocoScript documents. Any version of LocoScript, of course. Mark the words and phrases you want indexed, using LocoScript marks such as Reverse Video that don't affect your print-out, and **AnsibleIndex** will automatically generate an index with accurate page numbers. There are facilities for quickly indexing (and word-counting) books that extend over many document files, for making the page numbers match those of your page proofs, and other bright ideas suggested by our customers over the years. Ask for our brochure to learn all the details we haven't room for here. If you order, send in this ad and we'll knock £2.00 off the normal price of £29.95: that's £27.95 including post, VAT and our famous friendly support.

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AMSTRAD CPC MISC (contd)

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WANTED - KDS MK 2/3 8-BIT PRINTER PORT for use with an Amstrad 6128. Reasonable price will be paid. Please contact:- Mr R Boreham at 37, North Street, Pembroke Dock, Dyfed, SA72 6QT or Telephone 0646 684627 (on holiday until 12th September)

WANTED: The "Admiral Graf Spee" and "Seduction" games (Sounds like fun-BW) for the CPC. Dave Caleno, 29, Chapter Road, Strood, ROCHESTER, Kent. ME2 3PX

WANTED - TO BUY OR BORROW. Or the CONSTRUCTION DETAILS of a Microstyle or Avatar CPC 6128 ABBA and side-select combined switch. Also wanted: a ROMBO Rombox (without ROMs). And also wanted: Tasprint on disc. 0934 623648.

IMPACT - The Ultimate CPC Disczine with Graphics, Sound and a side full of PD! Issues one to four available. For your copy, send a disc and a SSAE to: IMPACT, 53, High Lane, Burslem, STOKE ON TRENT, Staffs ST6 7DF. It's free and PD! Also - contacts wanted to swap CPC PD software (at the same address).

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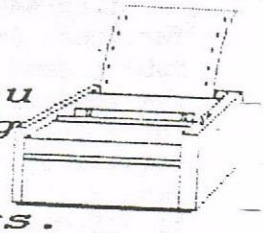
on PCW or Epson-compatible printers.



FANCY LABELLER

This program allows you to design, edit, store and print text-based labels. The main features are:-

* Simple 'on-screen' label editing.
* Add printer control codes to each label line eg. bold, italic, double width and, on external printers, more exotic styles such as shadow, outline, double width and height.
* Design your own customised printer drivers with single-letter codes for each effect eg. A, B, C.
* Matrix/Daisy/Star drivers on disc
* Variable line spacing <> labels.
* Locate labels by data search.
* Print multiple copies of labels.
* Build your own library of labels.
* Auto-numbering for ticketing etc.
* Fully menu-driven for easy use.
* Simple printer port selection.

PICTURE LABELLER

This is the program for those users wishing to add graphics to their label designs. The program is again menu-driven with the following main options:-

* Type text, in a variety of different styles and sizes.
* Select a graphic from the 100+ pictures in the disc library.
* More picture discs available.
* Load and Save Label designs.
* Print routine uses graphics + text modes for speed and quality
* Ideal for producing economy business cards/compliment slips, personalised greetings and club membership cards, home produce labels and many other designs.
* Not Suitable for PCW 9512/+ with Daisy Wheel printers only.

Labeller Uses

- Computer Disc Contents.
- Home Videos/Cassettes.
- Stock/Pricing Labels.
- Personalised Letterheads.
- Special Message Labels eg. 'FRAGILE' etc.
- Home Wine, Beer, Jam
- Tickets, Vouchers etc.
- and many, many more.

Prices

The SUPER LABELLER package includes both the FANCY and PICTURE label programs on one easy-to-use disc.

PRICE: £25.00

The programs are also available separately priced at £15.00 each.

HOME VIDEO TAPE No.

CONTENTS:

THE GREAT ESCAPE (FILM)

CORONATION STREET. (WEDS)

THE TEA SHOPPE

for tea and cakes

1 THE PARADE, HIGH ST, CASTERBRIDGE.

SD MICROSYSTEMS

Computer Software

Amstrad PCW and MS PC Specialists.

The LAWYERS PCW CLUB

The Lawyers PCW Club exists to support users of word processors and computers (PCWs, but also PCs using Locoscript) within the legal profession. Lawyers often find different, specialist uses for their computers - I hope to use this column to include some edited articles from our *Newsletter* which may be useful to non-lawyers too.

Many members particularly value the 'insert text' facility. This will insert one document into another. E.g. you type in an addressee's name and address into one file with an appropriate name, then finish editing and return to the disc management screen. Create your new file (e.g a letter), press f7 in Locoscript 1, f1 in Locoscript 2, or f9 in Locoscript Professional and select 'insert text'. The Disc Management screen now appears. Move over your file in the usual way, and press ENTER twice.

This is a very good method for inserting a name and address in a standard letter (e.g. a lawyer might use this to acknowledge a Form 53), or perhaps a clause into a Will (e.g clauses for maintenance and advancement re: infant) or other document. The disc containing the file to be inserted must be in the disc drive as well as the disc you are working on - so you may prefer to create your letter etc on drive M in Locoscript 2 so that you can change discs as you work. Remember to copy from Drive M to disc afterwards.

For full benefit, you need to be rather systematic with your discs, and keep different details in different groups on the disc; one group may be for addresses, another for standard paragraphs, and perhaps another to create your letters in which you will use these addresses/paragraphs.

Similar facilities are available in many other word processors.

Keith Simons, Honorary Secretary, the Lawyers PCW Club.

Club enquiries to: 10 Orrishmere Road, Cheadle Hulme, Cheadle, Cheshire SK8 5HP

SCOTWEST.pcw

Iain Laing has written and enclosed an ENORMOUS amount of information about SCOTWEST.pcw, of which he is the organiser. I will try to distill some of the best bits to give you a flavour of the group's goings-on. Sorry about the boozy allusions but Iain started it! What doesn't fit this time will be covered in later issues.

They seem to be the biggest (and possibly only!) PCW group in Scotland but there's certainly no complacency visible; it's hard to believe this isn't a full-time job, with so much happening. All new members are offered an introductory disc with utilities and programs for use with PCWs, including ZBASIC. As I understand it this is a new language based on BASIC with many advanced features. Iain has recently circulated a very informative piece to other PCW clubs on the importance of public liability insurance to protect against expensive claims from accident victims.

With 63 members currently, the group has a very readable newsletter 'CHR$(7)' which has just reached issue 36. Although now monthly, the former version of the newsletter was a bit more erratic in frequency and the group has in fact been going for rather longer than 3 years. A regular feature now is The Track, a free-under-£50 section for selling and buying (mainly PCW) computer stuff. They meet each month in Glasgow, although some members seem to live well beyond 'the wall'. SCOTWEST.pcw are at 19, Porton Place, Old Greenock Road, BISHOPTON PA7 5LT Tel: 0505 863916.

SD MICROSYSTEMS

VISA

(DEPT CPC), PO BOX 24,
ATTLEBOROUGH, NORFOLK.
NR17 1HL (0953) 483750

CPC SOFTWARE:-

All programs are supplied on 3" disc and run in 64K unless stated.

PAGE PUBLISHER £25.00
The ultimate DTP (text & graphics) package for 128K CPCs. 85% AA 100. Ideal for designing letterheads, newsletters, posters and much more.

PICTURE DISCS £12.50
Clip-art Discs 1 & 2 for Page Publisher or Stop Press (state).

GRAPHMASTER £15.00
Displays figures as bars, lines or pie charts etc. Full disc version.

GENERAL LEDGER £30.00
Simplified Cash Book accounting for the self-employed. (6128).

STOCK ACCOUNTS £40.00
Integrated stock control/invoicing package for small business (6128).

HOME ACCOUNTS..£15.00
Handles Bank accounts, credit cards and savings. Full disc version.

MAILING LIST...£12.50
Address Manager and Label Printer.

DISC-BASE.....£12.50
Creates a master DataBase of all your discs and finds files FAST!

DISC 10.....£10.00
Card Filer, Calculator, NotePad, Diary/Calendar Printer and more!

BUDGET SOFTWARE RANGE FROM £5.00
PC & PCW PRODUCTS ALSO AVAILABLE.
E.G. MINI OFFICE PC £25.00

CPC SUPPLIES:-

QUALITY DISCS:-
AMSOFT CF2 3" EACH.....£2.00
BOX OF TEN.....£17.50
Suitable for all CPCs and PCWs.
3.5" DSDD PER 10.....£5.00
Suitable for all 720k drives.
3.5" HD PER 10.....£7.50
Suitable for 1.44 MB PC drives.
5.25" (360k) PER 10.....£5.00

DRIVE CLEANERS:
3", 3.5" or 5.25" all.....£4.00

LOCKABLE BOXES:
40 capacity 3.5" (30x3")..£5.00
80 capacity 3.5" (60x3")..£7.50
100 capacity 5.25".....£7.50

PAPER PRODUCTS:
LISTING PAPER PER BOX....£15.00
ADDRESS LABELS PER 100....£2.00

ACCESSORIES:
Printer Cable 464/6128....£7.50
Printer Cable 464/6128+...£5.00
Monitor Copy Holder.....£4.00
Mouse Mat (anti-static)...£2.50
Mouse House (plastic pocket) £2

PRINTER RIBBONS:
DMP 2000/3000, PCW 8256/9512, STAR LC-10 all.....£3.00
STAR LC 24-10, CITIZEN 120D/+ CITIZEN SWIFT, DMP 4000, EPSON MX/FX/RX 80 all....£4.00

ADD P/P: £1.00 PER ITEM (£2.00 MAX). SEND CHEQUES/POS OR SAE FOR OUR 12-PAGE CPC CATALOGUE.

3.5" DRIVES

* The ideal 2ND Drive for the CPC 464, 6128 or Plus.
* Slimline 7"x4"x1" high.
* Dual modes- AMSDOS (180K) and MEGA (800K per disc).
* FREE pack of 3.5" discs.
* Complete with connectors, cables, PSU & Side Switch.

PRICE £79.95

PRINTERS

With CPC or Plus cables.

CITIZEN 120 £140
Excellent Budget 9-PIN printer with NLQ modes.

CITIZEN ABC £175
High performance 24-PIN. COLOUR OPTION AVAILABLE.

FOR DELIVERY PLEASE ADD:- DRIVES £5. PRINTERS £10.

COMPUTER SHALL SPEAK PEACE...

The machines we use have a great deal in common, and you may find that a supplier primarily dealing with another computer may have items of use to you. I was reminded of this on Saturday when, in the middle of getting the magazine together, I took a call from someone who thought I'd done away with my old 8-bit as I had run off the pre-release dummy version of 8BIT MART (which he had received) on an ink-jet printer. Several 'Famous High Street Dealers' had told him that, apart from Amstrad PCWs, an 8-bit computer cannot communicate with an ink-jet printers.

This is plainly nonsense, but the point is that the smaller, specialist, suppliers are more likely to be up to date on what is compatible with an older computer, and what is available, than the FHSDs. With some of the most useful accessories and best programs from years back (not to mention spare parts) becoming harder to find, these specialists deserve our support.

EARLY BIAS, OR JUST TEETHING PROBLEMS?

An aspect of the lack of response to the 'free small ads' offer is that some formats (especially Amstrad CPC's and PCW's) are much better catered for than others (for example, Commodores and Spectrums) in this first issue. Strangely too, this is not in direct proportion to the readership. Perhaps users of the latter machines are satisfied with their current set of kit? My hope is that, while I do not expect all sections to occupy exactly equal amounts of space, all 8-bitters will feel they are adequately provided for in time. This is one reason why I have given the project at least 6 issues to settle in!

* * * *

WANTED - SOFTWARE for the Commodore C16 and Plus 4 computers. Anything considered, i.e tapes, disks, mags, books. Contact Peter with details on 0444 440647. Thank You.

* * * *

MAYHEM IN MONSTERLAND

From the makers of Creatures and Creatures 2 comes probably the greatest platform game ever created for the C64; Mayhem In Monsterland is an intriguing blend of fast, frenetic platform action, with five wickedly cute levels to explore. Featuring the cutest dinosaur ever to emerge from the Jurassic period, you'll soon forget all about Italian plumbers and spikey blue hedgehogs.

★ First video game to receive 100% ★
★ Super-fast full screen scrolling ★
★ Fully interactive soundtrack and SFX ★
★ Amazingly detailed graphics ★
★ New non-standard colours ★
★ Not available in any shops ★
★ Commodore Format "It's a Corker!" ★
★ Commodore Force "Hurricane Hit!" ★
★ 64'er "High Light" ★

Apex Computer Productions, PO Box 100, South Ockendon, Essex. RM15 5HD.

PLEASE SEND ME MAYHEM IN MONSTERLAND (TICK RELEVANT BOX)
❑ CASSETTE £8.99 ❑ DISK £9.99 **PRICES INCLUDE P&P**

Send to: Apex Computer Productions Ltd., PO BOX 100, South Ockendon, Essex, RM15 5HD. Please enclose a cheque/postal order made payable to **APEX COMPUTER PRODUCTIONS LTD.** Allow up to 28 days for delivery.

NAME.....
ADDRESS.....
.....
.....
POST CODE.....

SPECTRUM CLUB

2000 Spectrum titles
available for hire

Return 1st class postage paid

For a Catalogue and further details
send a stamped,
self-addressed envelope to:

Softsell (EBM)
32 Dursley road,
TROWBRIDGE,
Wilts
BA14 ONP

SPECIAL OFFER

When contacting all the suppliers, I suggested that 8BIT MART readers might be persuaded to part with some cash (or cheque, or credit card) if offered a real bargain for a limited period. Well, here's the first special offer, and it's on a new product too.

Super Labeller, as you will see from their advertisement elsewhere, is from SD Microsystems and comprises two programs for use with Amstrad PCWs and Epson-compatible printers; **Picture Labeller** and **Fancy Labeller**. Normally each of these programs will cost £15, or £25 for the pair but, for a limited period, 8BIT MART readers can get both programs for just £20.

In my experience, a specially designed program can generally do this sort of job better than trying to "fiddle things" with a word processor or going to the lengths of loading up a fully-featured art/design program.

WANTED: LOCOSCRIPT 2 FOR THE PCW9512 - version 2.33c (or later) that fully supports a 3½" B: drive. Also wanted, the Locoscript 2 printer support disc. Please phone David on 0665 570662 (at any time)

FOUR GAMES, PLUS A PROGRAM to keep track of the fuel consumption and cost per mile of as many vehicles as you like. All running direct from CP/M. On 3" or 3½" disc. £5 including postage. FW Manders, 4, Carral Close, LINCOLN LN5 9BD

THE KEITH SIMONS COLLECTION comprises dozens of free software programs. Reviewed in 8000+ magazine (March 1992, page 49). Includes: calendars (any year since 325), a quiz game, label printer, word counters, a tour around the solar system(!) £4.95 from PCW World (Ref B/104), Meadway Court, Bloomfield Street North, Halesowen, West Midlands B63 3RE.

* * * *

IMPACT-THE CPC CLUB ON DISC

Just a bit of explanation before I start. Brian gave me this Amstrad CPC fanzine on disc to review cause he says it not his special area of interest and he's too busy with the magazine to look at it properly. How it gets in 8BIT MART with a kind of review is that it's sort of a club as well as being sort of a PD library, and a magazine too.

Tom Dean puts it together, and the whole thing loads up like a game. If you have things like a multiface or ROMs plugged in you might have problems loading it so if you do, unplug them. After a couple of very colourful screens it turns into a magazine in different sections PD, reviews etc, which you get to from the menus by pressing keys.

A lot of the content is very funny if you like bonkers nonsense (I do) and there are a lot of other funny things by accident. For example, part two of the CP/M tutorial is four lines long. From "The Book of Heroic Failures" (out of print) is repeated the fact that the worst computer ever was a #$%&#$%& (unashamedly censored by editor), no I'm joking, it was the County of Avon's wages computer which paid everybody too much or too little, and often more than once. I think they shot it eventually.

The club bit of the operation is that Tom is a great swapper of games and other programs through the contacts made by IMPACT. This is not piracy (which we all deplore) as the programs have to be originals or PD. For a sample of IMPACT send a 3" disc in a jiffy bag with two stamps for its return to Tom Dean at 53, High Lane, Burslem, STOKE ON TRENT, Staffs ST6 7DF. It'll make you laugh.

John Cherring.

DEVELOPMENTS IN PREPARATION

Because of my holiday interrupting 8BIT MART's production, I have not yet been able to establish what I hope will be a mutually useful relationship with one of the country's largest charity organisations. They have a lot of computer-related items handed in for resale through their shops, sometimes just because they are a worthwhile organisation and often too because the previous owner has not been able to find a customer for their kit locally. These items are 'cleared' through one person and it is him I have been speaking to. If the proposals come together as I hope, 8BIT MART will be advertising these items nationally for them. I will keep you informed.

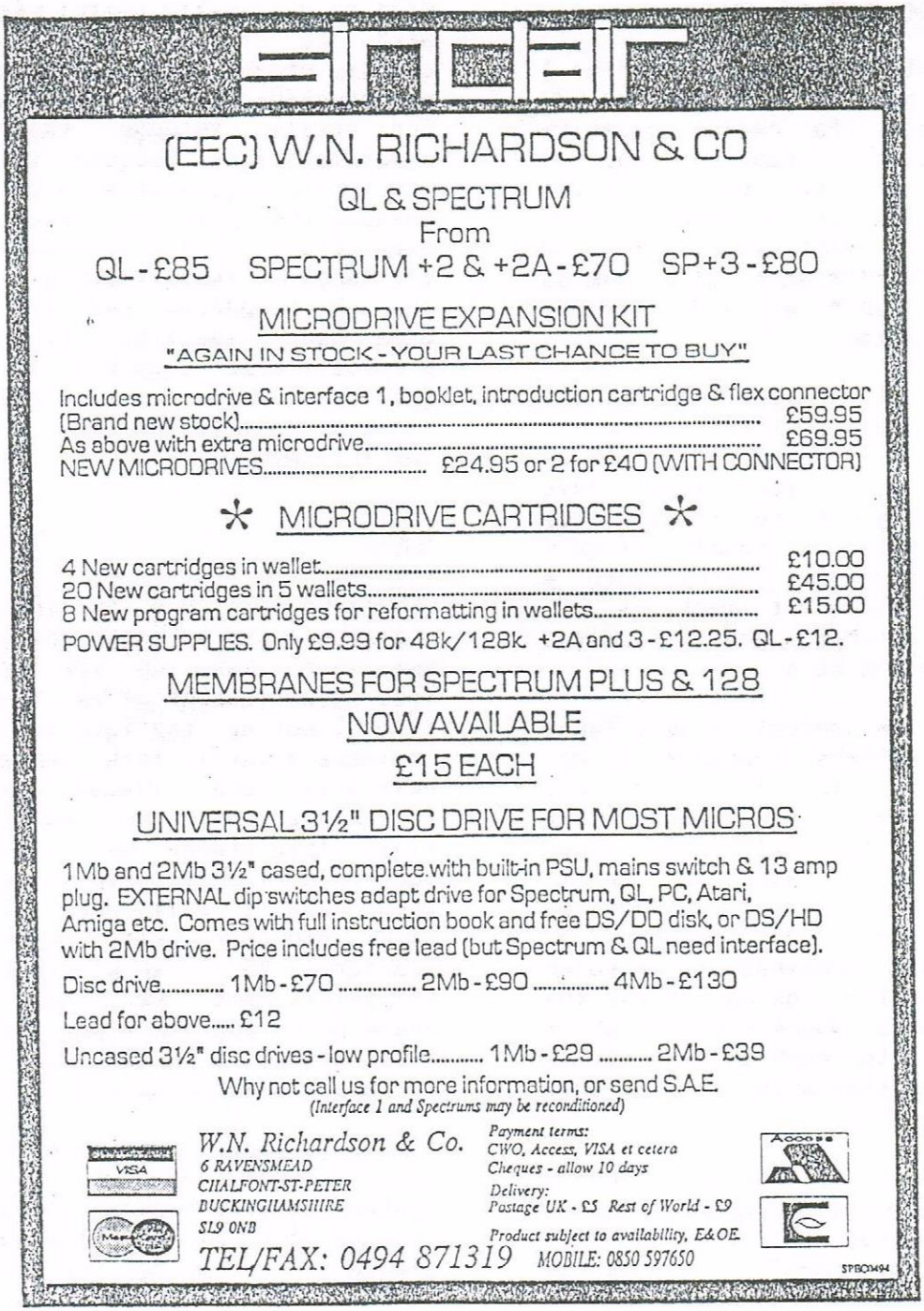
OUTRO

If you are one of the multitude who subscribed to issue one (or more), but did not take up the option of a free advertisement of up to 50 words, it will not be too late for inclusion in issue 2 until 15th September - my next press date. ***Please*** don't forget to include your name, address, and 4 first class stamps per issue, unless you would like a display advert, in which case it will cost you £20 per page, £10 per half page, £5 per quarter or £3 for an eighth of a page. All prices are 'per issue' and for these price you don't pay the four 1st class stamps. A phone number is useful in case I can't read the writing!

If you book, or have booked, an advertisement, and wish to change the content between issues please let me know as soon as possible and I will change it in time for the next issue.

My concept of 8BIT MART was that it should be a forum for keeping people with surplus equipment in this sector of the computer market in touch with people who want it, and I am pleased to see from the response of suppliers that they are aware of the shrinking number of large-distribution notice-boards for their wares, and are pleased to support this one.

I will be very pleased to hear of your comments and suggestions now you have seen issue 1.



CHIC COMPUTER CLUB, INDEPENDANT EIGHT-BIT ASSOCIATION, INDUG

I have received some details from the above user groups. They all cater for 8-bit computers users and on the information I have seem to do it well. As I am not a member of any of them, I would be very pleased to hear of first-hand experiences of membership. Meanwhile, here are their addresses so you can write direct rather than wait for my issue 2 in which I hope to do a fuller piece on each. CHIC are at PO Box 121, Gerrards Cross, Bucks SL9 9JP and appear to be huge (how can I have missed them until now?!), IEBA are found at 5, Beacon Flats, Kings Haye Road, TELFORD, Salop TF1 1RG, and INDUG can be contacted c/o Format Publications, 34, Bourton Road, Gloucester GL4 0LE. I was also sent information on ZAT magazine, but apparently the thing itself escaped en route! More next issue I hope if it's been caught by then!